

Message Text

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SUBJ: ARMY GENERAL RECEIVES ONE YEAR PERJURY SENTENCE IN
CATANZARO TERRORIST TRIAL

REF: A) ROME 15268; B) ROME 16920

SUMMARY. ON DECEMBER 2 THE CATANZARO COURT CONDUCTING
HEARINGS INTO THE 1969 PIAZZA FONTANA BOMBING GAVE
GENERAL SAVERIO MALIZIA, DEPUTY PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF
THE ARMY, A YEAR'S SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR PERJURY FOLLOWING
HIS TESTIMONY IN THE TRIAL. MALIZIA HAD SWORN THAT
GENERAL VITO MICELI, ONE-TIME HEAD OF THE DEFENSE INTEL-
LIGENCE SERVICE (SID), HAD TAKEN THE 1973 DECISION TO
CONCEAL THE LINKS BETWEEN ACCUSED RIGHTWING TERRORIST
GIOVANNI GIANNETTINI AND SID FROM THE COURTS ON HIS OWN,
WITHOUT CONSULTING THEN-MINISTER OF DEFENSE MARIO TANASSI
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OR PRIME MINISTER MARIANO RUMOR. MOST OBSERVERS TAKE
THE SENTENCE AGAINST MALIZIA TO INDICATE THAT THE
CATANZARO TRIBUNAL HAS ACCEPTED MICELI'S TESTIMONY THAT
RUMOR AND TANASSI WERE AWARE AND APPROVED OF THE SID'S
ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL ITS CONNECTION WITH GIANNETTINI FROM
THE COURTS (SEE REFS A AND B). END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 2 THE CATANZARO COURT CONDUCTING HEARINGS INTO THE 1969 PIAZZA FONTANA BOMBING (SEE REF A) GAVE GENERAL SAVERIO MALIZIA ONE YEAR'S SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR PERJURY IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COURT. MALIZIA HAD SWORN THAT THE 1973 DECISION TO CONCEAL THE CONNECTION OF THE ITALIAN DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SID) WITH ACCUSED RIGHTWING TERRORIST GIOVANNI GIANNETTINI WAS TAKEN BY THEN-SID CHIEF GENERAL VITO MICELI ON HIS OWN, WITHOUT CONSULTING POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. MICELI, WHO IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REPRESENTING THE FAR RIGHT MSI, HAS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE TRIAL THAT THEN-DEFENSE MINISTER MARIO TANASSI AND PRIME MINISTER MARIANO RUMOR WERE FULLY INFORMED OF SID'S INTENTION TO HIDE ITS TIES WITH GIANNETTINI AND APPROVED OF IT (SEE REF B). SURPRISINGLY, THE COURT HAS ACCEPTED THE TESTIMONY OF MICELI, A DECLARED NEO-FASCIST WHOSE TERM AS HEAD OF SID WAS SURROUNDED BY SCANDAL, OVER THAT OF THE TWO FORMER MINISTERS AND GENERAL MALIZIA.

2. MANY OBSERVERS HAVE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF MALIZIA'S CONVICTION LIES IN THE FACT THAT IT CASTS FURTHER DOUBT ON STATEMENTS MADE BEFORE THE CATANZARO TRIBUNAL BY RUMOR AND TANASSI, BOTH OF WHOM REPEATEDLY DENIED ANY PRE-KNOWLEDGE OF THE GIANNETTINI COVER-UP. THE MILAN PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WHICH CONDUCTED THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GIANNETTINI'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PIAZZA FONTANA BOMBING HAS BEEN CHARGED BY THE CATANZARO COURT WITH INVESTIGATION THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING PERJURY CHARGES AGAINST RUMOR AND TANASSI, BUT HAS YET TO ANNOUNCE ITS FINDINGS.

3. COMMENT. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE CATANZARO TRIAL HAS RUN FOR OVER FOUR YEARS, THE SPEED WITH WHICH VERDICT AND SENTENCING WERE PRONOUNCED AGAINST MALIZIA WAS PRUPRISING, CONSIDERING ESPECIALLY THE FACT THAT THE PRIMARY EVIDENCE AGAINST MALIZIA WAS PROVIDED BY MICELI WHO IS NOT CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE A RELIABLE WITNESS, MOTE-WORTHY ALSO IS THE ONE YEAR SUSPENDED SENTENCE METED OUT TO MALIZIA, WHICH IS LENIENT EVEN BY ITALIAN STANDARDS. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE COURT'S REAL INTENT IN ITS FINDING AGAINST MALIZIA WAS TO UNDERLINE ITS CONVICTION THAT TANASSI AND RUMOR PERJURED THEMSELVES AND TO URGE THE MILAN PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO PRESS ITS INVESTIGATION TOWARD FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST THE TWO FORMER MINISTERS. GARDNER

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